

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ST. PAUL POLICE
CHIEF TODD AXTELL ON THE OC-
CASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Chief Todd Axtell, upon his retirement on June 1 after more than 30 years of service to the City of Saint Paul Police Department including six years as Chief of Police. A dedicated and respected public servant, his leadership carried the department through many tumultuous times as he worked to build trust and transparency between the police and the Saint Paul community.

Chief Axtell grew up in Northfield, Minnesota, and after pursuing a law enforcement degree landed a job with the Saint Paul Police Department in 1989. Throughout his time with the department, he worked in all three patrol districts, the gang unit, narcotics and special investigations. After 26 years with the department, Axtell was appointed Chief of Police by then Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman in June of 2016.

As Chief, and throughout his prior leadership positions in the department, he worked toward three priorities—community engagement, diversifying the police department and addressing gun violence. He launched the Law Enforcement Career Path Academy to recruit a more diverse group of young people who would normally face obstacles to becoming a police officer, and started the Community Outreach Stabilization unit which pairs social workers with specially trained officers to work with people who are mentally ill, homeless or chemically dependent. He has been a consistent advocate for his officers but also held them to a high standard, overseeing increased training and transparency programs, and always being quick to acknowledge and respond to cases of misconduct.

Well known for his desire to get to know the community he served, Chief Axtell is spoken of highly by the city's religious leaders, elected officials, and many local community groups representing the diverse population of Saint Paul. He has been a steadfast partner to many, and our community has benefited greatly from his steady leadership. Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to pay tribute to Chief Todd Axtell as he retires from the Saint Paul Police Department after more than three decades of public service, and in honor of his ongoing commitment to improving public safety.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE WAGNER,
CASA FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEE CHAIR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Steve Wagner, General Manager of the Goleta Sanitary District. Steve is currently completing his term as the California Association of Sanitation Agencies' Federal Legislative Committee Chair.

While Steve has been a member of the CASA Federal Legislative Committee for many years, his committee leadership during the past two years helped guide the group through unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our successful support for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that will lead our Nation's investment in water infrastructure. Steve's tenure saw the successful implementation of CASA's federal policy priorities that included the introduction of legislation to eliminate nondeteriorating single use wet wipes that contribute to plastic pollution in our environment, working to ensure that the polluter pays principle is preserved when PFAS contamination cleanups are initiated, and supporting commonsense approaches to climate change, such as water recycling assistance.

During his time as Chair, the Federal Legislative Committee fulfilled its responsibilities to establish CASA's position on federal legislation that could impact its members, and keep policymakers informed on these and other vital public health matters. Of special note, in 2022 Steve oversaw the return of the annual Washington D.C. policy forum that was disrupted in 2021 due to pandemic restrictions. Steve performed the duties of Chair while also fulfilling his responsibilities as General Manager and Principal Engineer for the Goleta Sanitary District. As General Manager, Steve oversees the entirety of the District's 132 miles of wastewater collection services, as well as the District's role as the regional treatment facility for Goleta Valley.

Madam Speaker, Steve Wagner leaves CASA and Federal Legislative Committee in a strong place, well prepared to continue to respond to federal legislative and regulatory actions on behalf of CASA and the tens of millions of Californians that rely on CASA agencies to deliver water quality and public health improvements. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing immense gratitude to Steve Wagner for his extraordinary leadership of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies' Federal Legislative Committee.

RECOGNIZING BARRY SCHNEIDER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Barry Schneider, on the occasion of his retirement as longtime board member and former Chair of Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8) after 30 years of dedicated leadership and service.

Mr. Schneider first began his history of community engagement after learning of plans to convert a vacant lot on 63rd Street to a parking facility. Mr. Schneider joined with fellow residents to oppose the plan and express the negative impacts it would have on the area especially on the congestion at what was already a busy intersection. This group became the East Sixties Neighborhood Association, Inc. (ESNA). ESNA was successful in its efforts, and the lot was instead converted into a community garden.

Seeking to have a larger impact on more community issues after the success of ESNA, Mr. Schneider was appointed to CB8 in 1992. Throughout his time on CB8, Mr. Schneider was an advocate for community accessibility. Mr. Schneider instituted CB8's attendance at District Street Fairs in order to promote familiarity and open communication between CB8 and members of the public.

Mr. Schneider carried his dedication into the work he performed on many of CB8's Committees and Task Forces. Mr. Schneider co-chaired both the Transportation Committee and the Parks and Waterfront Committee, as well as serving as co-chair of a joint committee between CB8 and Manhattan Community Board 6 to address issues affecting both communities. Mr. Schneider presided as chair of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Task Force, the Park Avenue Armory Task Force, and the Second Avenue Subway Task Force.

During the construction of the Second Avenue Subway, Mr. Schneider acted as a voice for the community. After attending meetings with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and seeing concerns go unaddressed, Mr. Schneider advocated for a new meeting format that would focus on communities being heard, listened to, and respected. The new format created meetings where the MTA would be present at individual tables for the proposed neighborhood sites, allowing for direct, local communication with those neighborhoods. The format was effective, with community members being able to express the unique needs of their neighborhood and the MTA responding accordingly directly aiding the successful completion of the Second Avenue Subway and its opening in 2017.

Mr. Schneider served as Chair of CB8 from 1998 to 2000 and focused a lot of energy on ensuring that all interactions at the Board were respectful especially when issues heightened passions. He supported frequent interaction between members of CB8 and the public,

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